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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<b>Inventor(s):</b> STEPHEN D. KUSLICH et al.	<b>Examiner:</b> WILLSE, David H.
<b>Appln. No.:</b> 10/627,589	<b>Group Art Unit:</b> 3732
<b>Filing Date:</b> July 25, 2003	
<b>Title:</b> LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL METHOD	<b>Docket No.</b> 75028-307894

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I CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FACSIMILE  
TRANSMITTED TO THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (FAX  
No. (703) 872-9306), ON APRIL 25, 2005.

*Elaine Raiten*  
Elaine Raiten

**REPLY AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

This Reply is responsive to the outstanding Office Action mailed February 24, 2005. No fee is thought to be necessary. However, if any fee is required for entry of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account 06-0029 and is requested to notify us of the same. This Reply includes the following:

- **Amendments to the Claims** as reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.
- **Remarks** beginning on page 9 of this paper.